

Amendments In the Claims

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 3-20, 37-40 and 71-75 as provided in the attached claimed listing

Please amend claims 21, 25, 26, 29, 31, 41, 45, 48, 52, 56, 60, as shown on the "marked-up version" of the claims attached herewith.

The remaining claims are unchanged.

The submitted marked-up versions of the claims follows the new amendment rules, wherein added text has been underlined and deleted text has been stricken through and the status of each claim is indicated.

Remarks to Amended Claims

Claims 1, 3-20, 37-40 and 73-75 have been cancelled without.

Dependent Claim 26 was amended to provide proper antecedent basis to Claim 25 by including the phrase "the heart valve additionally comprises."

Claim 31 was amended to indicate the polymer insert comprises radiopaque flexible silicone rubber and a therapeutic agent.

Claim 48 was amended to indicate the body portion additionally comprises a metal or a metal alloy.

Applicants have focused the present claims on one specific class of implantable medical device. In particular, Applicants are focused on the polymer components found in prosthetic heart valves and annuloplasty rings for valvular repair. All remaining independent claims have been amended so that the specific polymer structures of the heart valve or annuloplasty ring is "initially formed from a polymer mixed with a therapeutic agent":

- Claim 21: sewing ring comprising "an annular support initially formed from